

184 West Main Street

Although the original building on this site was a small, 3-bay, L-shaped, pile, 184 West Main Street now consists of a large, 3-story, 5-bay box. The ground floor of this building has always been used for commercial purposes, and the second and third stories have been used as apartments. This multi-use, multi-family nature of the building is significant in view of its date, c. 1890, as it represents symbolically and actually, the closing up of Main Street in Westminster. The City had been, for most of its history a one-street town, with single-family dwellings alternating with professional buildings and strictly commercial structures up and down its length, and with few, if any, streets parallel with it. By the end of the 19th century, however, the street has pretty much been filled and space was at a premium; as number 184 would indicate. After this time, the town would grow, not by expanding along Main Street (expansion to the west had been halted as the street now ran up against land owned by Western Maryland College by the Peifsnider family), but further expansion would have to take place by annexing land to the north and the south.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CCH 765
0704634604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

184 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES, RESTRICTED

___ YES, UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Benjamin F. Crowl

Telephone #: 848-6124

STREET & NUMBER

260 East Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 361

Folio #: 678

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The deep red 7 course common bond brick walls of number 184 West Main Street face the north side of that street on the east corner of its intersection with Union Street in Westminster. The original building was probably a small L-shaped one; it is now a huge three-story, shed-roofed cube which rests on a low coursed fieldstone foundation.

There are two entrance doors on the south (principal) facade. The main door is the central bay. It is now a glass and aluminum storm door, but has retained its original flanking pilasters, elliptical transom and scroll-bracketed cornice. The door sits above a flight of 3 brick steps. The other door is much more simply enframed, and consists of a twelve-light glass and wood door which sits behind a glass and aluminum storm door and above two steps. Between these two doors, a three-sided, glass, bay window projects, which may have been once used as a store display window. The glass sides sit above a three foot tall common bond brick base and below a tin hipped roof with narrow white wooden cornice. To the east of the ground floor central door are two evenly spaced double-hung sash windows. These windows are all two-over-two paned, have white wooden sills and three course gauged flat arches. The ten other windows in the facade are also double-hung sash and have similar trim but their paning is neatly different: the six in the eastern three-fifths of the building (three per floor) have 2/2 panes, while the four to the west (two per floor) have 1/1 panes. Above all this, the wall is surmounted by a modillion cornice which is supported by scroll brackets placed alternately with the windows; there is the expected string connecting course at the bases of the brackets; and a carved plaque between string course and cornice.

The east wall of the building is flush with its neighbor, 182 West Main Street. The west wall presents two shed-roofed sections. The more southerly section is a full story taller and has randomly placed windows: one 2/2 window to the south on the ground floor and a 2/2 window in the center of the second floor. A wooden hipped-roof porch shelters an 8-panel door placed to the north on the ground floor. An iron fire escape leads its single flight of steps up from the south to a glass and aluminum storm door which is around the corner on the north facade of the building. (The other section of the west facade is blind.) There are three 2/2 windows to the east of that third-story storm door. The 2-story northern addition is covered in white aluminum siding and has three 2/2 windows randomly placed on its second story.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 184 West Main Street is significant in Westminster's architectural and social history, as it reveals the growth pressure felt by prominent citizens of the late 19th century and how they responded to it. The City had always grown westward along Main Street annexing land as needed in its linear fashion. By the time this lot of Isaac Shriver's Addition was ready to be built on, lots had apparently become too valuable on Main Street to be used for single-family plain residences (grand families, however, such as the Rinehart-Wantz group across the street, could afford the higher land prices). Thus we see some lots in this part of town in this era developing into row houses (see, for example, 119-121 West Main Street), but this building is unquestionably the first, and one of the few, true apartment houses in the City. It was never intended to be lived in by a single family and thus represents the crowded conditions on Main Street, conditions which would soon result in the City's annexing land to the north and south of that Main thoroughfare and to the City's eventual loss of its one-street nature. That no. 184 is the last privately-owned building on the north side of West Main Street (Union Street borders it and across the street begins the land owned by Western Maryland College) is fittingly symbolic: the house almost gives the appearance of being squeezed up against this barrier by the other houses on the north side of that street. In fact, if one wishes to take liberties with imagination, one can look at the last three houses on that side of the street, which grow increasingly tall, and read into this a certain amount of shoving: 180 shoves itself into 182 which is thus a little taller, which shoves itself into 184 which is taller still.

The early history of the land here is bound up with that of its neighbor, 182 West Main Street (q.v.), and, like that building, ended up belonging to William G. Pinehart, after he paid \$935 for an irregularly-shaped plot measuring approximately 95' x 184' and bordered by lot 9 of Isaac Shriver's Addition, and a "new street", meaning Union Street. This deed took place on January 4, 1889, and is recorded among the land records of Carroll County in Book 68, Page 516. Although no one is listed as living here in the 1887 City Directory, the 1877 plat of the City does show a small L-shaped building on the land. Nevertheless, we can assume that the house's present condition is a result of Rinehart ownership, as was so much in this section of town. The roof line and cornice details could

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being a parcel of land approximately 35' x 184' at the intersection of Union and West Main Streets in Westminster, as shown on a plat of Isaac Shriver's Addition to that City on the City map of Westminster of 1877.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

* 8

hardly date much before 1880.

The land remained in the Pinehart and Wantz families until Caroline Pinehart willed it to Ephriam Tracey (Will 10/50), whose widow, Helen E. Tracey, sold the place to Emma Etta Poyer; the description for this deed date August 21, 1910, mentions "a brick building" (135/275). The land stayed in the Poyer family (by straw deeds dated August 8, 1951, 210/128, 210/130) until David S. Rover and wife sold the rest of the land to its present owner, Benjamin F. Crowl on July 12, 1963 (361/678).



CARR-463